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DRAM 112A.11: Acting for Non-Majors

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University of Montana, Department of Drama/Dance Autumn Term 2007
Acting for Non-Majors/Drama 111A/112A section 11
TR 2:10-3:30 pm, Schreiber Gym 123
3 credits/General Education: Expressive Arts (A)
Instructor: **Michelle Edwards**
Office location: **PARTV 204**
Office message phone: 243-4481 and e-mail: **michelle.edwards@umotnana.edu**
Office Hours: **1-2pm T/W/Th**

Aim:

The purpose of this course is to help you broaden your communication, presentation and personal skills. The course will also help you develop a more articulate, responsive, and expressive identity. These goals are achieved by studying the craft of acting. At the end of the semester we hope you leave with an extended understanding of your self, your peers, and your world.

Outcomes:

In this setting you will achieve:

- a demonstrated confidence in the presentation of your self - socially and professionally;
- an ability to further articulate both your personal character and the character of those you take on in roles;
- a basic understanding of the nature of theatre and craft of acting;
- an understanding of, and respect for, performance including audience etiquette;
- an understanding of the importance and contribution theatre makes to our world.

Requirements:

Class Attendance:

- **Missing more than 1 week of class will drop your grade one full letter.** This is a studio class which means that the bulk of the work takes place in the classroom and cannot be made up. Because of the collaborative nature of acting you not only compromise your own work but the work of your classmates when you are absent.
- **Come to class on time.** Coming to class late is disruptive to the work already in progress. **Arriving late to 3 classes will equal 1 absence.**

Production Attendance:

- **You are required to attend all three of the University of Montana drama performances produced this semester. Missing one production will drop your grade one full letter. Missing two productions will drop your grade two full letters. If you do not attend any of the productions you will earn a failing grade in the class. Production attendance is a part of this class - there are no exceptions and there will be quizzes on the productions.**
- The class fee that you have already paid allows you to get one ticket for these shows at no extra expense. You must pick up your ticket at the Drama box office located in the lobby of the PARTV building in person between 11:30 AM and

5:30 PM, Monday - Friday. You can only pick up one ticket, your own; you cannot pick up a classmates ticket for them.

- You must **present your GRIZ CARD** to pick up your tickets and you must identify which class you are in, therefore you must know your section number and instructors name. *You are in section: ____.* *Your instructor's name is: _____.*
- Seating in the Masquer Theatre is general admission. Seating in the Montana Theatre is reserved.
- The fee that you have paid does not guarantee you a ticket on a particular night, nor does it guarantee that you will be able to get a ticket if the show sells out, therefore do not wait until the evening of the performance to pick up a ticket.
- **The three shows you will be seeing this semester are:**
 1. *Boy Gets Girl* Sept. 25-29 and Oct. 2-6, all shows 7:30pm. Masquer Theatre
 2. *The Good Woman of Setzuan* *Very limited seating, get tickets early*
Oct. 23-27, Oct.30 & Nov. 6-10, all shows 7:30pm. Open Space
 3. *Tartuffe* Nov. 27-Dec.1 & Dec.4-8, all shows 7:30pm. Montana Theatre

Participation in Class Projects and Performances:

- You will be performing on a weekly basis and will be given grades for your class work and performances in the areas of *process* and *product*. In other words you will be graded on the finished performance and on all of the rehearsals. Your grade in this area is not based on the natural talent you bring to the class, rather it will be a reflection of your *developed* talent and the progress that you make over the course of the semester. This assessment includes periodic quizzes on the material discusses in class as well as the final performance.

Effort/Respect/Attitude:

- Effort and respect are two very important requirements. It is expected that you will respond to all assignments and performances with effort and enthusiasm. It is expected that you respect yourself, your classmates, your instructor, and your classroom environment. An excellent performance hinges upon taking risks which is impossible to do if the environment is uncomfortable or uninviting. It is expected that when you participate in classroom activities your peers will encourage you to commit to your actions and characters without embarrassment, remorse, or caution. Passing this class requires openness and a willingness to take risks.

Writing Assignments:

- There are two writing assignments this semester. Although these assignments are generally creative in nature, they must be representative of university writing. You will be graded for your imagination and creativity as well as for the quality of your writing. These papers must be typed and proofread and must meet the demands of the assignment. Details on these individual writing assignments will come as they are assigned.

Evaluation:

Evaluation for the course is based on the following:

attendance including promptness and participation:	25%
participation in all class projects and performances including the final:	25%
effort/respect/attitude:	20%
production attendance:	20%
writing assignments:	10%

Procedure/Policy:

- There is no eating, drinking, or gum chewing during the class.
- Absolutely no weapons, real or fake, are allowed in the classroom.
- Late work is not accepted; this includes late or unprepared performances.
- Students are encouraged to wear appropriate movement attire to class.
- There is inherent risk involved in many Drama/Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Departmental Handbook:

- All Drama/Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the Department of Drama/Dance *Handbook*. The *Handbook* is available online at <http://www.sfa.umd.edu/drama/index.html>.

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code:

- All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at www.umd.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321.

Content:

This course is divided into five sequential units.

Unit 1: What is Theatre? What is Acting?

- A brief history of theatre and acting, acting vocabulary, exercises and games that explore the senses and cultivate imagination.

Unit 2: Exploration, Play, Spontaneity

- Improvisation and working with music and movement to learn to trust impulses and instincts.

Unit 3: Ensemble

- Building trust and skill through group exercises including warm-ups, theatre games, forum theatre and group performances.

Unit 4: Solo Performance

- Monologues, sonnets, personal performances and solo character studies.

Unit 5: Scene Work

- Rehearsing and performing short scenes with a partner, creating new and original characters, writing scenes, and script analysis.